

TERRAZZOTILES

ENCAUSTIC CEMENT TILES

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ENCAUSTIC CEMENT TILES

With over 20 stock and 100 bespoke designs, our Antique Tile Range offers an unrivalled selection of handmade Encaustic Cement Tiles, conveniently displayed in our Belsize Park Showroom.

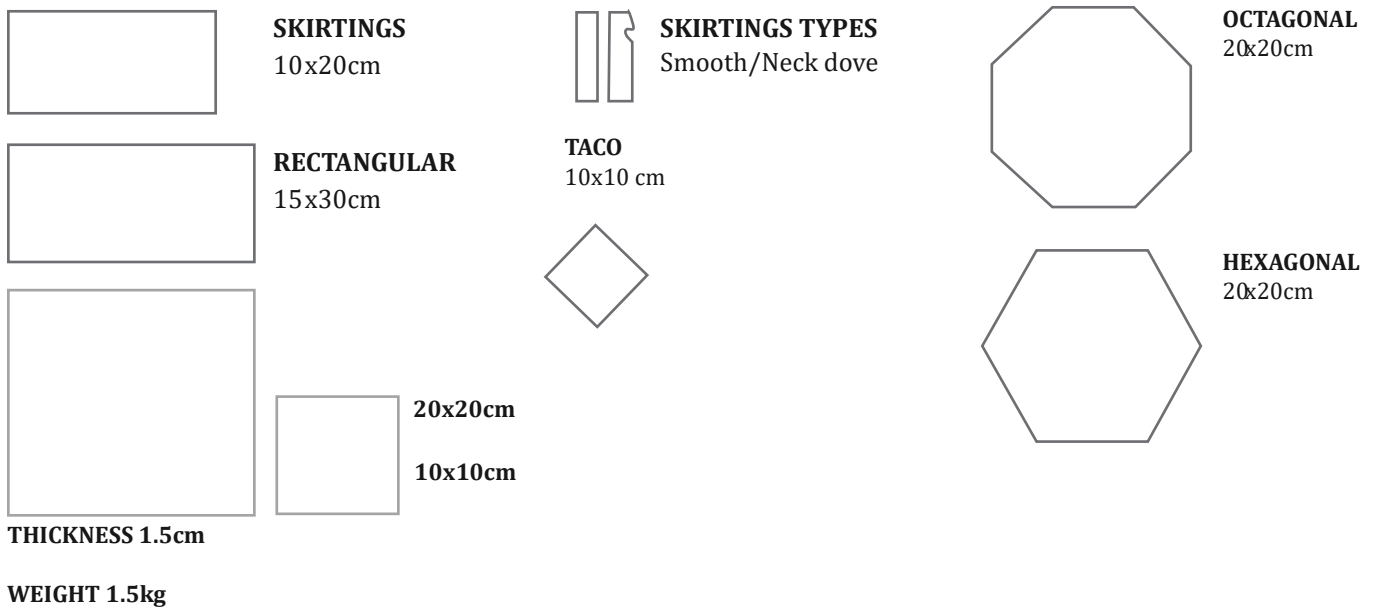
Each cement tile is individually handmade in Morocco using traditional processes. The surface of the tile is composed of white marble powder mixed with white cement and high-quality pigments. The pigment 'paste' is then poured into a steel mould using a small funnel.

This layer is sprinkled with a dry cement and sand mix that absorbs its humidity before being spread-over with the 'structure layer', composed of grey cement, sand and gravel. The filled mould is then hydraulically pressed.

The single piece is carefully removed from the mould and placed on a rack to dry. It is then placed in a water bath for several hours and allowed to set. Finally, it is sprayed regularly until it has set completely. The tile achieves its peak hardness about three weeks later.

SIZES & FORMATS

Our patterned tiles come as standard in 20cmx20cm with 1.5cm thickness, but they can also be ordered in plain colours in the following formats.



CHARACTERISTICS

Because of the traditional processes involved with the production of these tiles, slight defects such as small edge splinters, colour bleeding/smudging between elements of the pattern and surface scratches are inevitable.

Also, due to the fact that all pigment mixes must be used within one hour before the tile starts to set, they can only be prepared in small quantities. Several mixes therefore need to be made several times a day for the same shade. The craftsman compares his wet mix of colours to the dry, clearer mix and adds pigment as necessary.

This means that colours are not always absolutely the same, even in the same order. It is precisely these imperfections which give these tiles their distinct charm and natural appeal. With this in mind, the traditional technique is to 'shuffle' the tiles before laying them to ensure an even variation across the whole surface. An alternative is to take tiles at random from several boxes whilst fitting. Given the traditional characteristic of production, you should allow for some of the tiles to have defects including breakages or chips. There should be very little wastage if care is taken to use these tiles where cut tiles are needed.

OUTDOOR APPLICATIONS

Cement tiles can withstand conditions outdoors in locations that are adequately protected, for example on a covered patio, or on a terrace in a Mediterranean climate. Nevertheless, as these tiles are slightly porous, slight cracks or chips may occur in the event of frost or if they are clogged with moisture. To help diminish these frost-related issues, we would advise the following:

NB: When laid outdoors, some of the tiles may become subject to fading due to sunlight or acid rain. However, the level of inconvenience this causes depends on your individual tolerance and taste. Some people particularly like the 'mellowed' or 'aged' affect that this produces.

1. Lay the tiles on an impermeable or completely waterproofed concrete screed.
2. Lay the tiles with a double spread of adhesive, otherwise the formation of pockets of water under the tiles could loosen or crack them in the event of frost.
3. Use an adhesive suitable for outdoor use.
4. The joints must be well made and maintained to avoid the infiltration of water.
5. A sufficient gradient is required to drain water quickly and prevent puddles.
6. In addition to good drainage, we recommend that you re-seal the tiles regularly (every 12-18 months).

INSTALLATION

Our technical instructions sheet is for guidance only. We strongly recommend that you use a professional tiler who is familiar with laying this type of tile as they will be responsible for anything that may affect the final appearance of the tiles once they have been fixed. We do not accept claims after tiles have been laid.

Laying the tiles constitutes acceptance of goods.

PRECAUTIONS

Cement tiles have nuances in design and colour -no two tiles will be the same. This is a result of the hand-crafted production process and the nature of cement. Mixing tiles from different boxes during setting is suggested to produce a beautiful, naturally rich appearance.

The tiles are unsealed raw cement. They can be easily stained until they are appropriately sealed. Try to avoid walking on raw tiles or handling with dirty hands – we recommend wearing protective gloves. In between procedures, protect the tiles from foot traffic. If walking on the tiles is essential, then we would recommend covering with cardboard (as opposed to plastic which inhibits drying).

All cement tiles are porous, it therefore important to seal the tiles correctly. Always test sealing products on a single tile before applying to the entire floor. Do not make unnecessary pencil marks on the tiles as they may be impossible to remove after.

Tiles will expand and contract in different temperatures. We recommend the use of DITRA matting or a similar product and/or expansion joints to prevent any cracking in your tiles. If you are tiling any surfaces that will be coming into direct contact with water you must ensure that the substrate is absolutely waterproof, especially if it is sensitive to water like wood or plaster.

We recommend the use of rapid setting adhesive to minimize water-absorption through the back of the tile.

After the tiles are fixed, all moisture must be released from the body and the surface of the tile prior to sealing and grouting. The amount of moisture is dependent on multiple factors including the depth of the substrate and their drying times and the moisture content of the tiles and adhesives. Be led by your professional installer on correct drying times. We strongly recommend allowing 5- 7 days.

PREPARATION AND LAYOUT

Humid tiles should be stored on-end in a well-ventilated area to dry thoroughly before fixing.

Make sure the person fitting the tiles knows what the tiles should look like. 'Shuffle' the batch to ensure that any colour and tonal variations are well mixed.

Some degree of edge irregularity / edge chipping is to be expected for this type of artisan tile. These and any light scratches and scuff marks can be removed by lightly sanding with 150-200 wet-dry sandpaper. Work in circular motions and remove any residue with a dry sponge. Pits in the surface are also a feature of this range.

Before installation, lay out at least one row of tiles (without adhesive) in each direction to see if any adjustments need to be made. You may need to shift the layout to balance the border tiles from the wall.

Mark guidelines using a chalk line to suit your layout.

Carefully hand-press each tile. **DO NOT USE A HAMMER OR RUBBER Mallet** as this can cause micro-cracks to appear or even break the tile.

Lay the tiles almost edge to edge with as narrow a grout line as possible (traditionally 1mm although we would recommend a minimum of 2mm on substrates subject to deformation).

Adjust each tile in relation to each other to maintain levels taking care to align them correctly, following your chalk line guide or using a spirit level.

Once set, leave the tiles to stand for 12-15 hours until dry.

FIXING THE TILES

Prepare a level floor surface with concrete or self-levelling cement – please consult an experienced tiling professional if fitting onto a wooden floor as this kind of substrate may be subject to movement and/or deformation. Ensure that the substrate is dry and fully cured so that there is no danger of humidity evaporating through the tiles which can leave traces of nitrate.

Prepare the adhesive following manufacture guidelines. Spread the adhesive on the surface to be tiled using a notched trowel, working in areas of 0.2 – 0.5m². Also apply adhesive to the back of the tile. Make sure that the whole surface of the tile is in contact with the adhesive. Avoid getting adhesive on the surface of the tile as this can lead to staining.

CUTTING

We recommend the use of either a diamond cutter or an angle grinder to cut these tiles. Whilst cutting or drilling, the surface of the tile may become wet and/or dirty. Wipe clean immediately after cutting.

PRE GROUT PROTECTION PREP

Once the adhesive has cured, check the tiles for any surface dirt or dried adhesive, removing any blemishes with a razor blade or lightly sanding with waterproof sandpaper taking care not to scratch the surface.

SEALING – Pre-Grout Protection

We recommend applying a water-based sealant before grouting. Make sure that the tiles are completely dry (at least 24 hours after having been set) and that they are completely clean and free from dust before applying FILA PRW200 Pre Grout Protector. Apply the product as per manufacturer's guidelines to the front and sides of the tiles using a flat

DO NOT USE ACID, VINIGAR OR BLEACH. ALLOW TILES TO DRY COMPLETELY. If the tiles are sealed or waxed when wet it can result in 'ghosting' under the sealant and can impede evaporation.

paintbrush, fleece or other applicator in a uniform manner, avoiding any pooling. Remove residue within 10 minutes. The surface can be grouted the day after application.

Protect the tiles from foot traffic whilst the sealant is drying (minimum 24 hours).

GROUTING

IMPORTANT: Do not use dark tinted grout. This can stain your tiles. Ensure that the tools are completely clean and free of any hardened grout.

Clean off excess from the face of the tile using a damp fine textured foam sponge. Avoid removing inset grout by wiping across the tile at an angle to the grout line. Do not over wash the grout and change the cleaning water regularly. Take care to fully compress the grout into the full depth of the grout joints so that no air pockets are formed. Test your grout first on a spare tile. FILA PRW200 Pre-Grout Protector can be used to protect the tile. Mix the grout to a slightly runny consistency. Apply the grout

carefully to the grout lines using a filling knife taking care not to spread too much onto the tile. We do not recommend slurry grouting.

Leave the grout to dry for a minimum of 24 hours, and ideally 4-5 days before re-sealing. If grout residue has been left to dry on the surface of the tiles, use FILA PS87 PRO to remove. Test the product first on one tile and apply for 1-2 minutes using a white emulsifying pad to remove the grout residue. Rinse completely and allow the tile to dry. Should efflorescence form, these salts can be removed once the grout has fully dried and cured by frequent washing with clean water.

GROUT RELEASE

Dilute Fila PS87 PRO 1:5 with water and apply to the surface. Leave to act for 4-5 minutes before brushing with a single disc floor scrubber, scrubbing brush or white emulsifying pad. Use a cloth or liquid vacuum.

cleaner to clean any residues and then rinse thoroughly. This will allow for the removal of installation residue and will effectively deep clean the surface, preparing it for subsequent treatment.

SEALING – STAIN PROTECTION

Make sure that the tiles are completely clean and free from any grout residue. Correct protection keeps surfaces beautiful and hygienic over time. Apply FILA MP90 Eco Xtreme, taking care to ensure that you wipe away any excess. The best finish is achieved by applying the sealant in small amounts.

Protect the tiles from foot traffic whilst the sealant is drying (minimum 24 hours). Leave the perimeter joints as these must be finished with a good quality silicone sealer after the final seal and not with the grout. This will allow for expansion and contraction during normal heating and cooling cycles

SURFACE FINISH

For all internal floors apart from Bathrooms/Wet rooms, we recommend completing the treatment with a coat of protective wax which makes regular maintenance easier – we recommend Fila Matt Wax. Maintenance Every 2-3 months: after cleaning the surface with CLEANER PRO diluted 1:200, apply the wax by diluting 500 ml of product in 5 litres

of water. The floor may be walked on after it is dry. ONCE A YEAR: apply the wax slightly diluted (200 ml of water in 1 litre of water) with a fleece pad, cloth or other applicator. The floor may be walked on after it is dry.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

we recommend using CLEANER PRO - for all the operations related to everyday cleaning. Regular cleaning is fundamentally important because it maintains the appearance and characteristics of the material over time. For everyday cleaning, it is essential to use neutral cleaners which do not leave a residue and do not damage the material and any

treatments applied. Delicately cleans all wall and floor coverings; The highly concentrated formula may be used in various dilutions depending on the situation. Dilute CLEANER PRO 1:200 (25mL of CLEANER PRO in 5L of water), mop as usual, no need to rinse.

Alternatively, you can also use a mild, pH neutral soap. Under NO circumstances should an acid-based product be used. If the surface of the tile becomes damaged, the best method to repair it is by mechanically polishing the tiles after washing them with warm water and a mild detergent. The floor should be polished softly without the use of abrasive or aggressive products. We recommend that you reseal your tiles every 12-18 months.

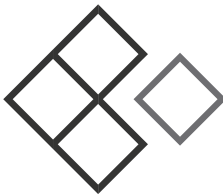
IMPORTANT NOTES

PLEASE READ

The following needs to be taken into consideration when purchasing these tiles.

1. This is an artisanal product made by craftsmen using traditional methods. For this reason, every tile will be unique.
2. These tiles need to be sealed. The sealant will need to be maintained every 18 -24 months.
3. Because they are handmade, the tiles you receive may vary in colour from display tiles viewed at the time of ordering. If exact colour is a concern please let us know before ordering as we are unable to return tiles once they have been despatched.
4. If your colour scheme needs to be exact, we recommend that you don't choose other colours for the rooms in which the tiles will be laid until receiving your order.
5. Please read the 'Characteristics' section for further information with regard to colour, edge chipping and imperfections.
6. Please order at least 10% extra to allow for wastage (these tiles are transported across Europe by truck so sometimes breakages can occur during transportation. Broken tiles can often be used for areas where a cut tile is needed).
7. Tiles that have been damaged or broken in transport and cannot be used will either be replaced or a refund for those tiles will be offered at our discretion, provided that we have been notified within 3 days of delivery (see note 10). Broken tiles should be returned to the showroom for replacements to be made. Please note that the same lead times as note 9 will apply for replacements.
8. Once an order is placed it cannot be cancelled as all items including "Stock Items" are imported to order.
9. Our delivery ETAs are estimates based on experience. Sometimes events outside of our control (national holidays, driver's strikes etc) can result in delays beyond our estimated delivery dates. Whilst we will do everything we can to minimise any delays, we cannot offer any compensation for disruption resulting from the delay of the supply of our goods, so please bear this in mind when planning your building works.
10. Your order should be inspected for any obvious damage and signed for as such at the point of delivery. Please ensure that any packaging is opened so that inspection of the material can be made. Avoid signing as "unchecked" as this may invalidate any future claims and notify us of any issues within 3 days as we are unable to offer replacements after that time.
11. Please also inspect the goods for anything that may affect the final appearance before laying them as we cannot process any claims once tiles have been fixed.
12. As a result of the production process (see page 3), your tiles may still be damp on arrival. We recommend that they are removed from their boxes and excess humidity allowed to evaporate in a well-aired room before fixing and especially before sealing.

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